



E-NEWS from *Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn*

An electronic legislative update for September 20, 2002

DID YOU KNOW...

Yesterday afternoon, Jennifer traveled to the White House for a classified briefing on Iraq conducted by National Security Advisor, Condoleezza Rice and CIA Director George Tenet. President Bush has asked Congress to pass a resolution authorizing the use of force against Saddam Hussein. The classified briefing is a result of Jennifer's request for more information about the Administration's plans before she votes to commit Washington State's sons and daughters to this effort.

WASHINGTON'S OUTSTANDING OLDER WORKER VISITS WASHINGTON DC, MEETS WITH JENNIFER



Washington's Outstanding Older Worker, Carol Mize of Olympia met with Jennifer earlier this week.

"Be flexible and embrace change."

--Carol Mize

Earlier this week, Carol Mize who is the winner of "Washington's Outstanding Worker" award stopped by Jennifer's Washington, DC office.

Carol is a merchandising and customer service representative for Sears in Olympia where she has worked 32-40 hours per week for the past five years.

Carol is retired from the Department of Defense and spent thirty years of her career working for the Veterans' Administration. She said that by continuing her career and working for Sears, she benefits from staying mentally and physically active.

Carol's motto is "Be flexible and embrace change."

The award is presented by the non-profit organization, 'Experience Works,' formerly known as 'Green Thumb.'

****In 2000, Congress repealed the Social Security earnings limit, which has cost seniors one dollar in Social Security for every three dollars they earned. This was a horrible disincentive for seniors and kept many of our most valued citizens out of the workforce. Now, seniors can pursue additional income without being penalized for improving their quality of life.**

- In 1996, Congress passed **welfare reform legislation** that changed the program from one that encouraged permanent dependency to one that enables families to become financially self-sufficient.
- Since passage of that bill into law;
 - **3 million children have left poverty**
 - **Employment by mothers most likely to go on welfare rose by 40 percent between 1995 and 2000**
 - **Welfare caseloads fell by 9 million** (from 14 million recipients in 1994 to 5 million today)

What is going on this week?

US HOUSE PASSES MEASURE CALLING FOR SENATE ACTION ON WELFARE REAUTHORIZATION; *Current Law Expires on September 30*

The US House of Representatives has approved a measure encouraging the Senate to act on welfare reauthorization prior to September 30, 2002, the date that current law expires. Nearly 5 months ago, the House passed the “Personal Responsibility, Work, and Family Promotion Act of 2002,” which provides an additional \$4 billion for child care, provides parents with more flexibility to go to school or obtain job training and helps more families collect back due child support. The Senate, however, has failed to act on the legislation. Jennifer is a Member of the House Ways and Means Committee that oversees welfare. She helped author both the 1996 welfare reform bill and the recent reauthorization.

US HOUSE PASSED MEASURE CALLING FOR SENATE ACTION ON PERMANENT DEATH TAX REPEAL

The US House has approved a resolution calling for Senate action on the Permanent Death Tax Repeal Act of 2002 prior to adjournment for the year. Jennifer was the leader in the House’s successful effort to pass repeal of the death tax as part of the comprehensive tax relief package signed into law last spring. But an arcane Senate rule requires all tax relief measures—including death tax repeal—to expire on December 31, 2010. While a bipartisan majority of the House passed a bill that would make the death tax repeal permanent, the Senate has failed to act on the legislation. Jennifer has worked for several years to repeal the death tax because it is a form of double, and sometimes triple taxation that is very hurtful to American families, small business owners and family-owned farms. She believes that temporary repeal of the unfair tax provides only minimal relief to family-owned small businesses because they must still expend valuable resources on costly estate planning.

Jennifer and Majority Leader Dick Armey held a press conference yesterday on the topic.

US HOUSE APPROVES BILL TO PROTECT CONSUMERS IN RENTAL-PURCHASE AGREEMENTS

The US House has passed a measure that will help protect consumers who “rent-to-own” items such as furniture and household appliances. Currently, the “rent-to-own” industry is not regulated and not required to help consumers make informed decisions about entering into rent-to-own agreements. This bill will require rent-to-own businesses to provide accurate information about the total cost of transactions in order to allow customers to compare rental-purchase transactions to other alternatives. Jennifer voted in support of the measure.

What we did last week;

IN MEMORY OF 9-11 VICTIMS, THE HOUSE PASSED A RESOLUTION DECLARING TODAY “PATRIOT DAY”

Last week, the US House has passed a measure calling for every September 11 to be “Patriot Day.” The Resolution expresses sympathy to the countless innocent victims of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, their families, friends and loved ones. It honors the heroic actions of first responders, law enforcement personnel, state and local officials, volunteers and others who helped the innocent victims. Finally, the resolution expresses thanks and gratitude for the foreign leaders and citizens of all nations who have assisted in the war against terrorism. In commemoration of the anniversary of the September 11 attacks, Jennifer participated in the special session of Congress at Freedom Hall in New York City and she attended a ceremony at the Pentagon.

US HOUSE APPROVED THE BACK TO SCHOOL TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2002

The US House has approved a bill to provide lower income families with an above the-line tax deduction of up to \$3,000 to help with their children’s educational expenses. Deductible expenses include tuition, academic tutoring, special needs services, books, supplies, uniforms and computer equipment for educational needs. The deduction will be available to families with incomes of \$20,000 or less (\$40,000 for married couples). The bill originated in the Ways and Means Committee, of which Jennifer is a Member and she voted in support of the measure.

Summary of Press Releases

US REP JENNIFER DUNN SECURES NEARLY \$12 MILLION FOR WATER CONSERVATION PROJECTS, INCLUDING \$3 MILLION FOR LAKE TAPPS

Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn has secured \$11.9 million for water and habitat conservation projects in the 8th congressional district including \$3 million for Lake Tapps. Of the \$3 million appropriations for Lake Tapps, \$1.5 million is designated specifically for protection of fish that inhabit the lake. The funds were approved by a House panel as part of the fiscal year 2003 Energy and Water spending bill.

Specifically, the House panel approved \$1.5 million for projects that allow fish to pass through the dam. Such passage is necessary for the survival of some species. The additional \$1.5 million is designated for projects that maintain the dam's safety and for general operation of the dam.

Additional energy and water projects secured by Congresswoman Dunn are as follows:

- **\$600,000 for the Duwamish/Green Ecosystem Restoration Project.** This funding will allow for the design and construction of the first five of 45 habitat restoration projects.
- **\$600,000 for the Puget Sound Nearshore Marine Habitat Study.**
- **\$7.776 million for the Howard Hanson Dam Fish Passage Facility.** This project will allow the Army Corps of Engineer to increase water capacity at the dam, thereby increasing water supply for the surrounding community. It will also allow fish and wildlife restoration projects at the dam to continue.